

## CLAIMS

1. A method of preventing false acceptance in a sys-  
5 tem for checking fingerprints which comprises a sensor  
(1), characterised by the step of detecting  
a latent fingerprint on the sensor (1).

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step  
of detecting a latent fingerprint comprises the steps of  
10 recording (100) a fingerprint by means of the sensor and,  
on the basis of the location of the recorded fingerprint  
on the sensor, evaluating whether the recorded finger-  
print originates from a latent fingerprint on the sensor  
or from a finger placed on the sensor.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the eva-  
15 luation step comprises comparing (130) the location of  
the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location  
of a previously recorded fingerprint on the sensor.

4. A method according to claim 2 or 3, further com-  
20 prising the step of, if the location of the recorded  
fingerprint on the sensor and the location of the pre-  
viously recorded fingerprint essentially correspond,  
considering the recorded fingerprint as originating from  
a latent fingerprint.

5. A method according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the  
25 previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately pre-  
ceding fingerprint which was considered as originating  
from a finger placed on the sensor.

6. A method according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the  
30 previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately pre-  
ceding fingerprint which was accepted.

7. A method according to any one of claims 2-6, fur-  
ther comprising the step of storing (150) information  
about the location of the recorded fingerprint on the  
35 sensor if the recorded fingerprint is not considered as  
originating from a latent fingerprint.

09842672-042701

8. A method according to any one of claims 3-7, wherein the step of comparing (130) the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of at least one feature of the recorded fingerprint with the location on the sensor of the corresponding feature of the previously recorded fingerprint.

9. A method according to any one of claims 3-7, wherein the step of comparing (130) the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of a partial area of the recorded fingerprint with the location of a corresponding partial area of the previously recorded fingerprint.

10. A method according to any one of claims 3-7, further comprising the step of matching (110) at least one partial area of a reference fingerprint with the recorded fingerprint to obtain at least one matching partial area of the recorded fingerprint, wherein the step of comparing the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of the matching partial area with the location of the corresponding partial area of the previously recorded fingerprint.

11. A method according to any one of claims 2-10, wherein the comparison of the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint is carried out only in the event that a matching between a reference fingerprint and the recorded fingerprint reveals that the recorded fingerprint originates from an authorised person.

12. A system for fingerprint checking comprising a sensor, characterised in that the system is arranged to detect a latent fingerprint on the sensor (1) so as to prevent false acceptance.

09042673 04304

13. A system according to claim 12, wherein the system further is arranged to record (100) a fingerprint by means of the sensor and, on the basis of the location of the fingerprint on the sensor, evaluate whether the recorded fingerprint originates from a latent fingerprint on the sensor or from a finger placed on the sensor.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein the system further comprises a comparison means (2) for comparison of the location of a recorded fingerprint on the sensor (1) with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint on the sensor.

15. A system according to any one of claims 12-14, wherein the sensor (1) has an integral coordinate system.

16. A storage medium for digital information, which medium is readable for a computer system, the storage medium containing a computer program for preventing false acceptance of fingerprints, characterised in that said program implements the method in any one of claims 1-11.

09043673 042704  
10/24/02 22:54:50